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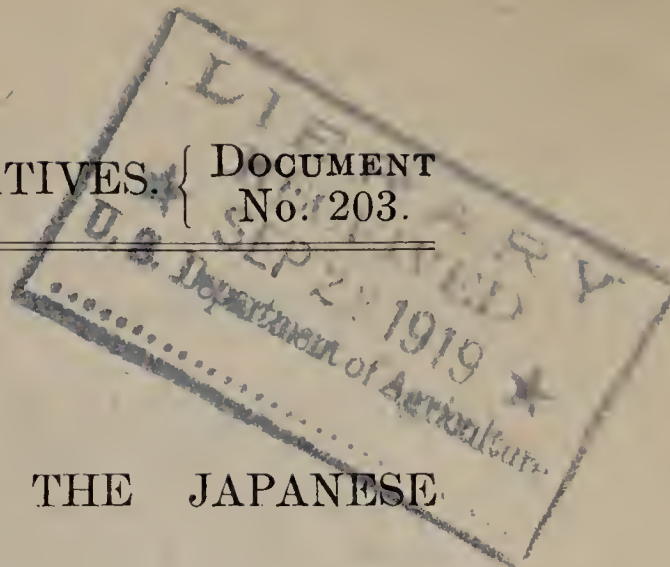
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66th CONGRESS,  
1st Session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DOCUMENT  
No. 203.



PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF THE JAPANESE  
BEETLE.

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LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

COPY OF COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SUBMITTING A SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION REQUIRED BY THAT DEPARTMENT TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE JAPANESE BEETLE, FISCAL YEAR 1920.

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AUGUST 25, 1919.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, August 23, 1919.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress copy of a communication from the Secretary of Agriculture of the 19th instant, submitting a supplemental estimate of appropriation, in the sum of \$70,000, required by the Department of Agriculture for preventing the spread of the Japanese beetle, fiscal year 1920.

The necessity for the appropriation and the reasons for the submission of the estimate at this time are fully set forth in the letter of the Secretary of Agriculture herewith.

Respectfully,

J. H. MOYLE,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, August 19, 1919.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith an estimate of additional appropriation required by this department to meet the emergency caused by the unexpected spread and increase in New Jersey of the Japanese beetle. For this item the following wording is suggested:

"To enable the Secretary of Agriculture to meet the emergency caused by the recent and sudden spread of the Japanese beetle in the State of New Jersey, and to provide means for the control and prevention of spread of this insect in that State and to other States, in cooperation with the State of New Jersey and other States concerned and with individuals affected, including the employment of persons and means in the city of Washington and elsewhere, and all other necessary expenses, \$70,000, which shall be immediately available."

The current agricultural appropriation act carries an appropriation of \$105,780 for investigations of deciduous-fruit insects, of which \$25,000 has been allotted for the purpose of controlling the spread of the Japanese beetle. The appropriation, however, was not available until July 24. At the time the original estimate was made the insect was believed to occupy much narrower limits than subsequently was found to be the case. Furthermore, it has reproduced itself in enormous numbers and has spread over much additional territory, in spite of the repressive measures undertaken by the department and the New Jersey authorities, and now infests some 15,000 acres in Burlington County, N. J.

The insect passes the winter in the larval, or grub, stage in the soil, the beetles appearing in late June and continuing on the wing until the approach of cool weather in the fall. The larvæ apparently feed only on decaying vegetable matter, and are thus of but little economic importance. The adult, or beetle, however, is very destructive to a large variety of plants, including orchard, vineyard, ornamental, and other crops, and feeds on certain shade trees, many weeds, etc., and its further spread would undoubtedly cause serious losses to growers and entail very heavy additional expenditures for control operations. It especially attacks green sweet and field corn, which greatly adds to the danger of its spread in the course of marketing the crop. It may be disseminated also by automobiles passing along roadways through the infested area; on the clothing of workmen and others going from infested to noninfested territory, and in various other ways.

It is clear that the funds now available for work against the Japanese beetle are entirely inadequate in view of its rapid increase and spread during the present summer. The territory bordering the infested area should be thoroughly scouted to establish limits of its distribution. Food plants of little or no economic importance along roadways and elsewhere should be removed and other plants kept treated with poison. A large barrier band of sprayed or dusted food plants outside the infested area should be maintained and all non-economic plants in the area destroyed. If funds are available to carry out in a thoroughgoing manner these and similar operations, it is hoped that it may be feasible to check the spread of the insect while practical control measures are being developed.

The work will be carried on in cooperation with the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture and with a committee representing the citizens of the infested territory.

Respectfully,

D. F. HOUSTON,  
*Secretary.*

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*Supplemental estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

*Control and prevention of spread of the Japanese beetle—*

To enable the Secretary of Agriculture to meet the emergency caused by the recent and sudden spread of the Japanese beetle in the State of New Jersey, and to provide means for the control and prevention of spread of this insect in that State and to other States, in cooperation with the State of New Jersey and other States concerned and with individuals affected, including the employment of persons and means in the city of Washington and elsewhere, and all other necessary expenses, \$70,000, which shall be immediately available (submitted)..... \$70,000







PREVENTING SPREAD OF JAPANESE BEETLE, BUREAU  
OF ENTOMOLOGY.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION REQUIRED BY  
THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD  
OF THE JAPANESE BEETLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1921.

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JANUARY 5, 1920.—Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and ordered to be  
printed.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, December 20, 1919.*

Sir: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress copy of a communication from the Secretary of Agriculture of the 19th instant, submitting a supplemental estimate of appropriation in the sum of \$130,000, under the title "General expenses, Bureau of Entomology," required for preventing the spread of the Japanese beetle for the fiscal year 1921, of which \$30,000 is required to be made immediately available.

The necessity for the appropriation and the reasons for the submission of the estimate at this time are fully set forth in the letter of the Secretary of Agriculture herewith.

Respectfully,

CARTER GLASS, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, December 19, 1919.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for inclusion in the Agricultural appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1921, an estimate of an additional appropriation of \$105,000, under the heading "General expenses, Bureau of Entomology," required by this Department to meet the emergency caused by the unexpected spread in New Jersey of the Japanese beetle. The current appropriation act carries an item of \$105,760 for the investigation of deciduous fruit insects, of which \$25,000 has been allotted for the purpose of controlling the spread of the Japanese beetle. It is recommended that the latter amount be eliminated from this item (p. 167, item 32, committee print of estimates) and be included in a new paragraph making specific provision for the Japanese beetle control work. For this paragraph the following wording is suggested:

To meet the emergency caused by the recent and sudden spread of the Japanese beetle in the State of New Jersey, and to provide means for the control and prevention of spread of this insect in that State and to other States, in cooperation with the Federal Horticultural Board, the State of New Jersey and other States concerned and with individuals affected, including the employment of persons and means in the city of Washington and elsewhere, and all other necessary expenses, \$130,000, of which \$30,000 shall be made immediately available.

Investigations during the fall of 1918 and the spring of 1919 showed that the Japanese beetle had reproduced itself in enormous numbers and spread over much additional territory in spite of the repressive measures undertaken by the department and the New Jersey authorities. In order to cope with the situation, a supplemental estimate calling for an emergency appropriation of \$70,000 was transmitted to the Congress on August 19, 1919. Only \$45,000 of this amount, however, was made available in the first deficiency bill (Public 73, 66th Cong.), which was approved on November 4, 1919, making a total of \$70,000 for the Japanese beetle suppression work during the fiscal year 1920, a sum insufficient to carry out an adequate program of suppression.

The Japanese beetle, introduced from Japan, has become in this country a serious enemy of many kinds of plants, including orchards, vineyards, truck crops, ornamental plants, various weeds, shade trees, etc. It is now established in Burlington and Camden Counties, New Jersey, and covers an area, according to present surveys, of about 15,000 acres. Since during most of its life the insect lives as a grub in the ground, and in the adult stage is a very active flying beetle, it is now realized for these and other reasons that its eradication is impracticable. It is extremely important, however, that everything feasible be done to prevent its further spread, and money expended in this work will be very profitable investment because it will protect other parts of the country from the ravages of the insect and obviate the necessity for considerably larger expenditures in connection with control measures over much greater areas.

It is estimated that, aside from the \$25,000 at present included in the item for deciduous fruit insect investigations, \$105,000 will be required to carry out an effective program of control during the fiscal year 1921, and to conduct the work on an adequate scale during the



remainder of the current year. There is much to be done if the beetle is to be held within its present limits. The territory bordering the infested area should be thoroughly scouted to establish its distribution. Food plants of little or no economic importance along the roadways and elsewhere should be removed and other plants kept coated with poison. A large barrier band of sprayed or dusted food plants outside the infested area should be maintained and all noneconomic plants in the area destroyed.

The Federal Horticultural Board will establish an adequate quarantine which will provide for the inspection and certification of crops of all kinds in the infested area, and the control work is being and will continue to be carried out in cooperation with the New Jersey State department of agriculture and with representative citizens of the infested territory.

Respectfully,

D. F. HOUSTON,  
*Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

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*Supplemental estimate of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921, by the Department of Agriculture.*

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY.

*General expenses, Bureau of Entomology—*

To meet the emergency caused by the recent and sudden spread of the Japanese beetle in the State of New Jersey, and to provide means for the control and prevention of spread of this insect in that State and to other States, in cooperation with the Federal Horticultural Board, the State of New Jersey and other States concerned, and with individuals affected, including the employment of persons and means in the city of Washington and elsewhere, and all other necessary expenses, \$130,000, of which \$30,000 shall be immediately available (act July 24, 1919, vol. 41, p. 256, sec. 1)..... \$130, 000





